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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector



1952

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(at 31st December, 1952)

—————

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. E. Price, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Alderman L. Whitehouse, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. F. Postins, J.P.)

Alderman G. W. Price, J.P.

„ G. W. Stokes, C.C.

Councillor R. Hammond.

„ S. Rogers.

„ N. L. Small.

„ W. F. Taylor, C.A.

“ Public expenditure on national health is like expenditure on a lifeboat or a fire-engine ; even more it is like a long-term investment. It yields its interest with absolute certainty, a thousand-fold, but only in the course of years and sometimes in the course of generations. It is money hidden in maternity, in good schools, in pure food, in clean streets, in sanitary houses, in an abundant water supply, in dispensaries, hospitals and sanatoria, and in the vast network of a sanitary and protective cordon in every village and city of the land. Its efforts are unappreciated until they are withdrawn. *Yet without this investment the nation is bankrupt.*”

Sir George Newman. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, 1921.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1952, prepared in accordance with the terms of Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 of the 22nd of January, 1953.

Matters referred to in this report deal with the health of the community as a community, the health functions formerly exercised for the individual having passed to other authority.

The basic sanitary requirements for a civilised community were summarised by the Royal Sanitary Commission of 1868 :—

- (i) *The supply of wholesome and sufficient water for drinking and washing.*
- (ii) *The prevention of the pollution of water.*
- (iii) *The provision of sewerage and utilisation of sewage.*
- (iv) *The regulation of streets, highways and new buildings.*
- (v) *The healthiness of dwellings.*
- (vi) *The removal of nuisance and refuse, and consumption of smoke.*
- (vii) *The inspection of food.*
- (viii) *The suppression of causes of diseases and regulations in cases of epidemics.*
- (ix) *The provision for the burial of the dead without injury to the living.*
- (x) *The regulation of markets, etc., public lighting of towns.*
- (xi) *The registration of death and sickness.*

To most of these matters you will find reference in the report, it is unceasing care and watchfulness in respect of them all which alone makes a healthy life possible.

It will be noted that the statistics, compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General show that the birth rate of 14.8 is below the provisional rate for England and Wales of 15.3. This is the first time within my recollection that the live birth rate has fallen below that of the country as a whole.

The death rate at 10.9 is below the national rate but the infantile mortality rate of 41.0 shows a regrettable increase from that for 1951 when it was 30.9.

The consideration and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee is gratefully acknowledged, as is assistance willingly rendered by the Chief Officers of the Council's other departments.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. Lynaston.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Wednesbury, Staffs.
16th June, 1953.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(at 31st December, 1952).

Medical Officer of Health :

A. H. Kynaston, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.

(Six-elevenths of whose time is allotted to the Staffordshire County Council as Medical Officer to their No. 9 Area Health Committee.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

F. J. Turner, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

G. O. Wright, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

R. H. Mann, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Veterinary Surgeon :

A. J. McVinnie, M.R.C.V.S.

Clerical Staff :

Mr. F. Hickman.	Miss A. I. M. James.	Mr. R. J. Deeley.
	Miss N. Spooner.	

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	2,025
Registrar-General's estimate of Population Mid 1952	34,650
Population Census 1951	34,758
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952 according to the Rate Books) :—	
(i) Council Houses	3,979
(ii) Other Houses	5,497
Total	9,476
Rateable Value	£163,444
Sum represented by a penny rate	£640

Vital Statistics :—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>
Live Births	512 ...	246 ...	266	
Legitimate...	492 ...	235 ...	257	14.8
Illegitimate	20 ...	11 ...	9	
				<i>Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).</i>
Still Births	14 ...	9 ...	5	
Legitimate...	14 ...	9 ...	5	26.6
Illegitimate	— ...	— ...	—	
				<i>Death Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>
Deaths ...	379 ...	201 ...	178	10.9
				<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>
Maternal Mortality	Deaths.	Nil	Nil	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—				
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Legitimate	12 ...	9 ...	21	
Illegitimate	— ...	— ...	—	
Death Rate all causes under one year of age :—				
All Infants per 1,000 live births				41.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births				42.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births				Nil
				<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				1.96
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)				Nil

The Registrar-General's Estimated Population for the Borough of Wednesbury for 1952 shows a decrease of 90 compared with that given for 1951.

The Standardised Death Rate for 1952 is 13.3 (10.9 x 1.23), i.e., the Death Rate which would have resulted had the age and sex distribution for the Borough been the same as that of the country as a whole.

		<i>Live Birth Rate.</i>		<i>Still Birth Rate.</i>		<i>Death Rate.</i>		<i>Death Rate Infants under under one year</i>
<i>England and Wales (Provisional Rates 1952)</i>	... ..	15.3	... ..	22.6	... ..	11.3	... ..	27.6
<i>Borough of Wednes- bury</i>	... ..	14.8	... ..	26.6	... ..	10.9	... ..	41.0

Social Conditions.

The population is mainly artisan, chiefly engaged in iron and steel manufacture, tube manufacture, engineering, hot drop stamping, constructional steelwork, railway carriage building, edge tool manufacture, bolts and nuts manufacture, electrical engineering, iron foundering and kindred trades.

Mr. W. Hutchinson, Manager of the Wednesbury Employment Exchange of the Ministry of Labour and National Service has given me the following particulars of employment and numbers as unemployed at 31st December, 1952 :—

Numbers employed in the Principal Industries of the Town :—

				<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Metal Manufacture including Iron and Steel Rolling and Casting ... ..	...	...	...	3308	331	3639
Iron Foundries ... ..	...	...	...	661	250	911
Iron and Steel Tubes ... ..	...	...	...	979	341	1320
Non-ferrous Metals ... ..	...	...	...	270	49	319
Engineering ... ..	...	...	...	753	293	1046
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Motor Vehicles ... ..	...	...	...	834	33	867
Metal Goods not elsewhere specified ... ..	...	...	...	2612	1852	4464
Food, Drink Manufacture ... ..	...	...	...	276	104	380
Artificial Stone Bricks, Plastics ... ..	...	...	...	469	75	544
Sawmilling and Woodwork ... ..	...	...	...	460	66	526
Total ... ..	...	...	...	10,622	3,394	14,016

Approximate Working Population—17,500.

Numbers Registered as Unemployed at 31st December, 1952 :

				<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Wholly Unemployed ... ..	...	...	...	47	34	81
Temporarily Stopped ... ..	...	...	...	82	25	107
Non-Claimants ... ..	...	...	...	24	24	48
Total ... ..	...	...	...	153	83	236

Registrar-General's 1952 Vital Statistics.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1952. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

[illegible]

<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London). 50,000 at 1951 Census).</i>	<i>160 Smaller Towns (Resident) Population 25,000— 50,000 at 1951 Census).</i>	<i>London Adminis- trative County</i>	<i>Borough of Wednes- bury.</i>
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Notifications (Corrected).

Smallpox	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	—	...	—
Measles	8.86	...	10.11	...	8.49	...	9.23	...	6.1
Pneumonia	...	...	0.72	...	0.80	...	0.62	...	0.57	...	0.7
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioen- cephalitis)	...	...	0.06	...	0.06	...	0.06	...	0.06	...	0.03
Non-Paralytic	...	...	0.03	...	0.03	...	0.02	...	0.03	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	0.13	...	0.16	...	0.11	...	0.18	...	0.09
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	17.87	...	23.94	...	10.22	...	30.77	...	0.03

Deaths.

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

All Causes under one year of age	...	27.6	...	31.2	...	25.8	...	23.8	...	41.0
Enteritis and diarrhoea under two years of age	...	1.1	...	1.3	...	0.5	...	0.7	...	—

Expectation of Life. On the basis of 1951 death rates the estimated expectation of life of a male child at birth would be 65.84 years and that of a female child 70.88. These figures compare with 48.53 and 52.38 respectively in 1901.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, Year 1952.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over.	Totals.	Males.	Fe- males.
Tuberculosis—respiratory	—	—	—	1	2	8	2	—	13	9	4
Tuberculosis—other	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—	—	2	5	3	1	11	5	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—	—	1	13	6	—	20	19	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	—	8	—	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	—	—	—	1	8	10	9	28	18	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	—	—	—	2	10	17	20	52	21	31
Coronary disease, angina	—	—	—	—	3	8	17	14	42	28	14
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	9	4	5
Other heart diseases	—	—	—	1	1	11	12	23	48	15	33
Other circulatory disease	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	4	14	9	5
Pneumonia	6	—	1	—	—	1	6	1	15	8	7
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	2	7	6	11	26	18	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4	4	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	4	—
Congenital Malformations	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	—	1	1	2	3	8	30	52	21	31
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	2	—
All other accidents	1	1	3	1	1	—	1	1	9	3	6
Suicide	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	21	2	5	6	23	94	107	121	379	201	178

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE GROUPS, YEAR 1952.

Age.	Tuberculosis Non- respiratory.	Leukaemia.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system.	Pneumonia.	Congenital malforma- tions.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	Accidents.	Total.
Under 24 hours	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
1 day ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
2 days	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
3 days	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
4 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
14 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21 to 28 days	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
28 days to 2 months	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
2 months	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
3 months	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
4 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
6 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8 months	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
9 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 months	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
11 to 12 months	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
TOTALS	1	1	3	6	2	7	1	21

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(as at 31st December, 1952).

Ambulance Service (Staffordshire County Council).

Main Ambulance Station: Clemson Street, Willenhall.
24 hour Station. Tel. No.: Willenhall 580.

Wednesbury Sub-Station: Myvod House, Wood Green Road.
8 a.m.—6 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive.
8 a.m.—1 p.m. Saturdays. Closed Sundays.
Tel. No.: WEDnesbury 0072.

Ante Natal Clinics (Staffordshire County Council).

Albert Street	...	1st and 3rd Friday, at 2-15 p.m.
King's Hill (School		
Street)	... ..	1st and 3rd Wednesday, at 2-15 p.m.
Mesty Croft (Alma		
Street)	... ..	2nd and 4th Wednesday, at 2-15 p.m.

Chemical Analysis.

County Analyst: A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford.
Tel. No.: Stafford 578.

Home Help Service (Staffordshire County Council).

20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury. Tel. No.: WEDnesbury 0279.

Hospitals.

Admission arranged by Medical Practitioners.

Immunisation (Staffordshire County Council).

By Family Doctor or at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics.

Infant Welfare Centres (Staffordshire County Council).

Albert Street	...	Mondays and Thursdays, at 2-15 p.m.
King's Hill (School		
Street)	... ..	Tuesdays and Fridays, at 2-15 p.m.
Mesty Croft (Alma		
Street	... ..	Mondays and Thursdays, at 2-15 p.m.

Maternity.

Arrangements for confinement in hospital on medical grounds by patients' doctor ; for social reasons or on account of unsuitable home conditions through nearest ante-natal clinic.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.)

Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford;
Director : Lt. Col. R. N. Phease. Tel. No. : Stafford 377.

Smallpox.

Treatment arranged through Regional Hospital Board.

Tuberculosis.

Chest Clinic : Church Street, Wednesbury.
Tuberculosis Officer : Dr. Elizabeth S. Frew.
Tel. No. : WEDnesbury 0322.

Venereal Diseases.

Special Clinics : Guest Hospital, Dudley and Manor Hospital, Walsall.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water.

The Borough of Wednesbury lies within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer in Chief, reports as follows :—

- (i) (a) The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (b) The water supply has been satisfactory in quality.

- (ii) The supply to the Borough of Wednesbury is derived from boreholes and surface sources outside the Borough.

Water from all sources is examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and, where treatment is practised, both before and after treatment.

The water supply is sampled each month from points within the Borough of Wednesbury, *viz.* Wednesbury Reservoir, the Waterman's House, Wednesbury and Wood Green Re-pumping Station.

During 1952, 26 samples were examined from Wednesbury Reservoir, three of which contained coliform bacteria. Bact. coli were confirmed in two samples, and aerogenes bacteria in the other. 23 Samples were examined from a tap at the Waterman's House, Wednesbury, and all were free from coliform bacteria. 20 samples from Wood Green Re-pumping Station were likewise satisfactory.

The samples were also examined chemically, and the averages of the samples examined during 1952 from the Waterman's House, Wednesbury, were :—

pH	...	...	...	...	7.5			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	...	...	...	...	121	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	...	...	...	...	42.7	„	„	„
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	...	Trace	„	„	„
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	...	.029	„	„	„
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	...	3.4	„	„	„
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27 deg. C)	...	...	...	...	.32	„	„	„
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	114	„	„	„
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	77	„	„	„
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	191	„	„	„
Iron (Fe)	...	...	...	...	.04	„	„	„
Manganese (Mn)	...	...	...	...	Nil	„	„	„
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Ph)	...	...	...	...	Nil	„	„	„
Free Cl	...	...	...	...	.01	„	„	„

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo solvent action. The 23 samples examined from the Waterman's House were all free from lead.

- (iv) Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations, largely as a precautionary measure.

Emergency chlorination is performed in cases of emergency such as burst mains, etc., and special staff and apparatus are available for this purpose. New mains are chlorinated and not brought into use until a sample of water from them is proved satisfactory.

(v) My Company do not take an actual census of the population but assume a figure of 3.75 persons per house in order to arrive at the population supplied.

(a) 9,476 houses approx. 35,535 persons

(b)	156	„	„	585	„
				<hr/>	
				36,120	„
				<hr/>	

Periodic independent sampling has always resulted in satisfactory bacteriological and chemical reports.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Mr. C. G. Morrish, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, reports :—

“The sewerage system functioned satisfactorily during the year ended 31st December, 1952, and no serious stoppages occurred.

The washing of media and repairs to filters at the Sewerage Works were continued, and in order to obviate trouble in the event of a breakdown duplicate pumps were installed at two sewage pumping stations.

The total rainfall for the year was 27.220 inches.”

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

Particulars of Inspections and Defects found and Remedied will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Mr. C. G. Morris, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I., Borough Engineer and Surveyor reports :—

“During the year ended 31st December, 1952, 30 traditional houses and six shops and flats were completed by the Local Authority and 20 houses by private enterprise, and 148 houses were under construction by the Local Authority and 9 houses were under construction by private enterprise. The total number of post-war houses built at 31st December, 1952, was 1,114.

Development works were commenced on the Hateley Heath, Mesty Croft and Golf Course Sites to enable houses to be built. These sites will accommodate approximately 600 houses."

Mr. R. L. Highfield, Housing Manager, has given me the following statement :—

"At the beginning of the year families awaiting rehousing under Demolition and Clearance Orders numbered 58.

14 Demolition and Closing Orders were made during the year and four families have been rehoused leaving a total of 68 properties still to be dealt with at the end of the year.

Many houses which in pre-war years were regarded as borderline from a Sanitary and unfitness point of view are, with the passage of time, becoming ripe for demolition and will require consideration as soon as rehousing conditions permit.

Applications outstanding now number 2,089 including 127 Bungalow applications from aged persons.

During the year 30 families have been rehoused on the Red House Grounds Estate. These houses include eight three bedroom and 22 two bedroom type houses.

Of the 30 houses provided, three were tenanted by families from privately owned overcrowded houses and a similar number of small sized families from the waiting list were placed in the vacated private houses with the landlord's consent.

Every opportunity has been taken during the year to utilise the existing and new houses to the best advantage by voluntary transfers of families from under-occupied three and four bedroom houses to two bedroom houses and bungalows and the provision of three and four bedroom houses for overcrowded families in the existing vacated houses. During the year 46 such transfers have been arranged to give effect to the above.

Of the 2,089 applicants 1,475 are lodgers and approximately 35.3% of this total have been married not more than three years. Approximately 28.3% have been married from four to six years. Approximately 17% have been married between 7 and 9 years. Approximately 19.4% have been married 10 years and over."

Houses erected from January 1st, 1919 to 31st December, 1940 :—

(a)	Council Houses	...	...	...	...	3,087
(b)	Private Houses	...	...	...	...	1,216
						—
	Total	...	...	...	...	4,303
						—

Since end of Second World War :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>By Corporation</i>					<i>By Private</i>	
	<i>Housing Act, 1930.</i>					<i>Enterprise.</i>	
1946	68	...	...	33
1947	244	...	...	66
1948	162	...	...	40
1949	152	...	...	19
1950	102	...	...	29
1951	134	...	...	11
1952	36	...	...	20
				898			
							218

Good homes are the very foundation of Public Health and that 1,500 of the 2,000 applicants are lodgers denotes overcrowding of existing homes in many cases known to be of grievous degree.

That over half these lodger applicants have been married five years without a home of their own must have occasioned a degree of stress and strain inimical to family happiness and well being.

First things first must mean a separate house for every family as the Borough's primary need.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector will be found details of inspections and action taken under the various Acts, Orders and Regulations.

Dr. Ramage County Medical Officer of Health has given me the following statement regarding samples taken in the Borough of Wednesbury during the year 1952 under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Milk.

T.T. Pasteurised Milk	9	
T.T. Sterilised Milk ...	1	
T.T. Certified Milk ...	1	
T.T. Milk ...	1	
Pasteurised Milk ...	16	
Sterilised Milk ...	18	
Total ...	46	All Genuine.

General Foods.

Number of samples taken 41 All Genuine.

Classification of General Foods.

Dessicated Coconut.	Mild Ale.
Batter Mixture.	Bitter Beer.
Chest and Lung Mixture.	Sage and Onion Stuffing.
Giant Harricot Beans.	Semolina.
Pork Sausage (5 samples).	Ground Rice.
Cake Flour.	Potato Crisps.
Custard Powder.	Orange Squash.
Pineapple Segments.	Mincemeat.
Salad Cream.	Peanut Butter.
Tea.	Yorkshire Pudding Pancake
Greengage Jam FFS	and Fritter Mixture.
Lard.	Flake Farinoca.
Glycerin B.P.	Synthetic Cream Powder.
Pure Coffee, Chicory and Sugar.	Chocolate Roll.
Whisky.	British Wine Cocktail.
Gin (two samples).	British White Wine.
Rum.	Sherry.
Brandy.	Golden Cocktail.
	Sponge Mixture Sweetened.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1952.

On the 22nd of October, 1952, the Minister of Food made an Order under Section twenty-three of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, that sub-section (1) of section nineteen of that Act should operate in respect of the Borough of Wednesbury from the 1st of November, 1952.

From which date milk sold by retail must be sterilised, pasteurised, tuberculin tested or until September 30th, 1954, accredited from a single herd.

The coming into force of the above Order also affected the statutory procedure relating to the refusal, suspension and revocation of licences.

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Foods and Drugs Act, 1938.

No prosecutions under these byelaws were instituted during the year.

Food Poisoning.

Cases notified are recorded under Section F.

Cleanliness in handling of Food.

Propaganda by means of press publicity, bill-posting, pamphlet distribution, etc., continued throughout the year.

**SUMMARY OF RETAIL MILKS SAMPLED BY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
DURING THE YEAR 1952.**

Designation.	No. of Samples taken.	Cleanliness Test (Methylene Blue).		Phosphatase Test (For Pasteurisation).		Turbidity Test (For Sterilisation)		Biological Test (For T.B.)		Phenolphthalein Test.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	34	32	2	34	—	—	—	—	—	34
Pasteurised ...	40	*36	1	40	—	—	—	10	—	40
Sterilised ...	33	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	—
T.T. Sterilised ...	14	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—
Undesignated ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Farm Bottled) ...	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Tuberculin Tested ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	124	70	4	74	—	47	—	12	—	74

Of the 124 Samples taken 12 were submitted to the Biological Test and all were negative.

* Three were not reported on colour owing to high temperature at time of sampling.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Disease, Ward Distribution and Hospital Admissions are given in tabular form at the end of the section.

The weather of the first three months of the year was mainly mild the only snowfall of any depth or duration occurring in the last three days of March.

April, May and June were months with rainfall above the average and the summer disappointed by the very few really warm days. Snow arrived early in the Autumn the last two weeks of November being characterised by frequent snowstorms with a further fall in mid-December.

Influenza.

There was slight incidence in January, February and March, mild in type and of short duration.

Diphtheria.

Six cases were notified during the year, two only of which were confirmed, a man aged 22 who had never been immunised and a boy aged 10 who had also never received protective treatment—there were no deaths.

Measles.

Notifications numbered 212 compared with 584 in 1951.

Scarlet Fever.

Notifications numbered 72, in one instance the disease was not confirmed, in 1951 the number of confirmed cases were 32.

Whooping Cough.

Cases notified 87, in 1951—281.

Smallpox.

No cases.

Poliomyelitis.

There was one confirmed case, a girl aged four who developed paralytic symptoms on the day after arriving in the Borough for a holiday—she had come from an area where cases had been prevalent—and in hospital made a good recovery with no residual paralysis, being discharged on the eighth of September.

Two other notifications were received but the diseases was not confirmed.

Food Poisoning.

There were three confirmed cases—all members of one family two children and one adult who were infected by an organism of the *Salmonella* group—Tyhpi-murium.

They were only mild cases but took several weeks to become free of the organisms.

Despite intensive search the source of infection could not be found.

Tuberculosis.

New cases notified in 1952, 61; Pulmonary, 58; Non-Pulmonary 3.

36 of the cases were notified from the Chest Clinic, 18 by Hospitals and seven by General Practitioners.

Sputum Examinations.

<i>Sender.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Chest Clinic	35	287	322
General Practitioners	7	128	135

Deaths.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Death Rate England and Wales—All forms.</i>
All Forms ...	15	0.43	...
Pulmonary ...	13	0.38	0.24
Non-Pulmonary	2	0.06	...

A table showing age of notification and death will be found on page —.

Number on Register.

Although under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, the maintenance of a register is no longer an official requirement locally—it is essential that knowledge of the local incidence of this disease should always be readily available and the keeping of a register is being continued.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. on Register (all forms).</i>		<i>New Cases</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
			<i>Pul-monary.</i>	<i>Non-Pul-</i>	<i>Pul-monary.</i>	<i>Non-Pul-</i>
1938	... 173	...	26	5	18	2
1946	... 183	...	39	4	25	1
1947	... 208	...	46	5	20	2
1948	... 235	...	70	3	25	6
1949	... 257	...	51	5	27	3
1950	... 271	...	63	2	25	6
1951	... 310	...	71	8	22	4
1952	... 322	...	58	3	13	2

I referred at some length last year to the incidence of tuberculosis. In 1952 there were nine less pulmonary and two less non-pulmonary deaths than in 1951 and 61 notifications compared with 79.

With a Chest Clinic in the Borough there is active ascertainment and sputum examinations in 1952 were 146 more than in 1951.

MISCELLANEA.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

Removal of Persons to Hospital in need of care and attention. No applications were made during 1952.

Medical Examinations, 1952.

Corporation Sick Pay Scheme.

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
67	...	50	...	46	...	4

Local Government and Other Officer's Superannuation Act, 1937.

<i>Examined.</i>		<i>Admitted.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
6	...	6	...	3	...	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS
AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1952.

DISEASES.	Numbers originally notified.	Final Numbers after Correction.										WARDS.				Deaths	Cases Admitted to Hospital.
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age Un-known	Total All Ages.	Town	King's Hill	Mesty Croft	Wood Green Manor			
CIVILIANS—																	
Scarlet Fever :																	
Males ...	32	—	2	5	23	2	1	1	—	32	7	15	2	4	—	12	
Females ...	40	—	8	8	24	3	2	3	—	39	10	14	6	4	—	19	
Whooping Cough :																	
Males ...	38	5	12	13	8	—	—	—	—	38	16	9	4	1	—	1	
Females ...	49	5	15	12	17	—	—	—	—	49	14	9	5	1	—	1	
Ac. Poliomyelitis—Paralytic :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Females ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Non-Paralytic—																	
Males ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles :																	
Males ...	118	8	29	33	44	2	2	2	—	118	23	27	13	16	—	2	
Females ...	94	3	17	36	33	5	—	5	—	94	8	20	10	16	—	—	
Diphtheria :																	
Males ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	
Females ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Ac. Pneumonia :																	
Males ...	18	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	18	5	6	1	2	—	—	
Females ...	7	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	1	2	3	—	—	—	
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ac. Encephalitis Lethargia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Females ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Males ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia—Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum :																	
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Females ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Food Poisoning :																	
Males ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Females ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS...	414	22	77	109	151	13	6	29	—	407	90	105	45	45	8	47	

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1952.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 1 year ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
1— 4 years ...	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—14 „ ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 „ ...	7	9	1	—	—	1	—	—
25—34 „ ...	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 „ ...	2	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—64 „ ...	11	—	—	1	7	1	—	—
65 and over ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	29	29	1	2	9	4	1	1

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the report of the work carried out by my Department for the year 1st January to December 31st, 1952. The Cleansing Section covers the financial year ended 31st March, 1953.

Happily there have been no changes of Staff during the year but Miss Nancy Spooner commenced duty as a Junior Clerk with the Department on 5th August, 1952, thereby completing my allotted establishment.

At the beginning of the year the Health Department was transferred to the Sanitary Offices and both sections operated as a single unit from 37, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. This change-over has worked very smoothly indeed.

Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table shows the results of Formal and Informal Notices served by the Department during the year :—

Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	190
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	212
Number of Premises affected	...	...	...	285
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	165
Number of Premises affected by compliance	...	...	...	185
Number of Formal Notices served	...	...	...	77
Number of Premises affected	...	...	...	66
Number of Formal Notices complied with	...	...	...	90
Number of Premises affected by compliance	...	...	...	74

Structural Defects found and Improvements made as a result of Sanitary Inspector's visits and notices served.

						<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	
General House defects—Main Buildings.								
Roofs	127	...	104
House Brickwork	22	...	11
House Brickwork Pointing				17	...	12
Cement Rendering Gables				7	...	9
Rainwater Spouting and Eaves Gutter				39	...	30
Chimneys	14	...	13
Chimney flashings	4	...	3
Wall plaster		101	...	95
Ceiling plaster		47	...	39
Firegrates	16	...	11
Firegrate Flues	1	...	2
Firegrate surround...		3	...	1
Doors	30	...	21
Door Casements		11	...	13
Door Sills	6	...	4
Door Fasteners	1	...	1

						<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>
General House defects—Main Buildings.							
Window—Frames	...	...	...	...	51	...	44
Window—Glazing	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Window—Sills	...	...	...	...	5	...	4
Window Lintels	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
Window sashcords	...	...	...	...	67	...	55
Window fasteners	...	...	...	...	5	...	3
Floors—Quarry	...	...	...	...	17	...	11
Floors—Living Room	...	...	...	...	14	...	9
Floors—Bedroom	...	...	...	...	23	...	18
Skirting Boards	...	...	...	...	4	...	9
Stair treads and risers	...	...	...	...	12	...	15
Stair handrails	...	...	...	...	4	...	7
Skylights	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Wash-house and Sculleries.							
Roofs	...	...	...	...	24	...	17
Rainwater Spouting	...	...	...	...	4	...	7
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Window Frames	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Door Casements	...	...	...	...	7	...	5
Floors	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Sinks	...	...	...	...	6	...	4
Sink Wastes	...	...	...	...	12	...	10
Washing Boilers	...	...	...	...	17	...	11
Washing Boiler Flues	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Washing Boiler Firebox	...	...	...	...	4	...	1
Water Service Pipes	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Brickwork to Wash Boiler	...	...	...	...	6	...	2
Wash-houses requiring reconstruction	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Brickwork Pointing	...	...	...	...	10	...	6
Water Closet and Coal-Houses.							
Roofs	...	...	...	...	23	...	19
Rainwater Spouting	...	...	...	...	12	...	6
Floors	...	...	...	...	2	...	4
Doors	...	...	...	...	5	...	5
Door Casements	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Water Service Pipes	...	...	...	...	8	...	9
Flushing Cisterns	...	...	...	...	27	...	21
Overflow Pipes	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Flush Pipes	...	...	...	...	8	...	11
Pedestals	...	...	...	...	21	...	23
Pedestal Seats	...	...	...	...	5	...	5
Leaking joints	...	...	...	...	13	...	9
Brickwork	...	...	...	...	12	...	11
Yards.							
Paving	...	...	...	...	9	...	7
Boundary Walls	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

*Found. Remedied.***Verandahs and Covered Passages.**

Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	3
Brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Structures defective	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

Drainage.

Drains obstructed	...	...	...	...	...	215	...	213
Gullies defective	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Inspection Chambers	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2
Inspection Chamber Covers	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	6
Waste Water Closet Conversions...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Vent Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	5
No Cap to Rodding Eye	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2

Refuse Accommodation.

Dustbins	91	...	81
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	----

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out after Infectious Disease cases have either been removed to hospital or otherwise terminated. Disinfestation refers to Bugs, Beetles, Crickets, Ants, etc.

Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	101
Number of Council Houses disinfested for Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Council Houses disinfested for other pests	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of other houses disinfested for Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of other houses disinfested for other pests	...	...	...	...	...	8

Housing Act, 1936.

Under the provisions of this Act the following premises were dealt with as stated :—

Demolition Orders made during the year :

19, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.
4 and 6, Park Street, Wednesbury.
49, 51, 53 and 55, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury.

The following were rehoused during the year :

5 families affected by Demolition Orders.

The following were demolished during the year :

14 premises were demolished following Demolition Orders.
4 premises were demolished in the Portway Road (Compulsory Purchase Order) Area.

Overcrowding.

Four cases needed recording for Permitted Numbers as required by the Act and this required four visits.

Action taken under Housing and Public Health Acts with respect to Unfit Houses.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	351
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1518
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	7
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	28
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	Nil
--	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
		(i) By Owners	Nil
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	66
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
		(i) By owners	74
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | 7 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order ... | 14 |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

Meat and Other Foods.

(Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders).

The table of inspections under this heading is shown later. The only Slaughterhouse in the Borough is at the Bacon Factory. The columns in the following table shown blank are due to the fact that only Pigs are killed and inspected.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Pigs.
Number killed	—	—	—	33,317
Number inspected	—	—	—	33,317
All diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	31
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	4767
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	14.4
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	51
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	2,865
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	8.75

The amount of meat recorded as condemned in connection with the above table was 28 tons 6 cwts. 0 qrs. 10½ ozs.

Other foods inspected and found unfit for human food included the following :—

					<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
249 tins of meat	...	...	...	...	9	1	21	7½
118 tins of milk	...	...	...	...	1	2	5	9
214 tins of vegetables	...	...	...	...	1	2	27	15½
145 tins of fish	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	9¾
537 tins of fruit	...	...	...	...	5	1	15	5½
7 jars of jam	...	...	...	...	—	—	7	5
Cheese	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	12
Macaroons and biscuits	...	...	...	...	15	1	3	—
Oats and flour	...	...	...	...	—	1	7	3

The total weight of other foods condemned
is therefore

...	34	1	8	3¼
-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---	---	----

Food Preparing and Storage Premises.

Under the general term Food Preparing and Storage Premises work has been carried out in the supervision of the following :—

Industrial Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	26
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	10
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	7
Snack Bar Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	13

In addition there is one Civic Restaurant in the Borough.

Ice Cream.

During the year there have been 28 new registrations for the sale of Ice Cream and it was found that 19 registered agents had discontinued selling. Also one maker by the Hot Mix Process had ceased manufacture.

The position on our register now is as follows :—

3 Vendors use the Cold Mix Powder ; and

105 Vendors purchase Ice Cream from Manufacturers outside the Borough whose premises and methods are satisfactory to the respective Authority concerned.

Under the Heat Treatment Regulations 12 samples were submitted for Bacteriological Examination. The results show that :—

5 Samples were Grade 1.

5 Samples were Grade 2.

2 Samples were Grade 3.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

One new licence was issued during the year making a total on the register of 15 persons licenced to slaughter animals in the Borough.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

These regulations require the issue of licences to those who wish to retail milk in the Borough. Consequently you authorised the following :—

<i>Dealer's Licences.</i>				<i>Supplementary Licences.</i>			
Pasteurised	...	...	17	Pasteurised	...	...	12
Sterilised	...	...	87	Sterilised	...	...	13
Tuberculin Tested	...		9	Tuberculin Tested	...		9
				T.T. (Pasteurised)	...		3

The Public Health Laboratory Service of the Staffordshire County, situated at Stafford, carry out any Bacteriological Analysis and Chemical Examinations required and during the year the following were submitted and found to be satisfactory :—

- 1 Sample of Milk for Bacteriological Examination.
- 1 Sample of Milk for Chemical Analysis.
- 1 Sample of Water for Bacteriological Examination.
- 1 Sample of Water for Chemical Analysis.
- 6 Samples of Swimming Bath Water for Bacteriological Examination.
- 6 Samples of Swimming Bath Water for Chemical Analysis.

The Milk samples were those of Milk as supplied to Schools. The Water samples were as supplied for Domestic Water Supply.

Prevention of Damage of Pests Act, 1949.

Under the term **Rodent Control** 29 complaints referring to rats affected 18 dwelling houses and 10 business premises and complaints referring to mice affected 11 dwelling houses and 7 business premises. These infestations required 617 visits.

The new baiting material known as WARFARIN was used with great success in despatching the rats. To cope with the mice it was found that methods had to be varied before successful despatch was finally accomplished.

61 visits were made to deal with other pests including Black-clocks or Cockroaches, Crickets and Ants ; also one exceptional case of a wasp nest under a living-room floor.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

As the authorised officer I visited the premises of the three persons who applied for licences under this Act. The premises were satisfactory and were consequently licensed until the end of the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Commencing on 1st January, 1952, two observation stations were set up in the Borough—one at the highest point in the gardens of the Convent School, Church Hill, and one at the Cemetery Lodge grounds, Beebee Road.

Arrangements were made with the County Laboratory at Stafford to carry out the required analysis and the results of these observations will link up with those carried out in adjoining areas and eventually show over a large part of this area of the County the variations and extent of the Pollution of the air.

The following table shows average monthly results for the two stations in Wednesbury over the year under the review.

Station	Rainfall in	Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	SC3 mg/day/100 cm ² of Batch Lead Peroxide.
	inches	tons per square mile.			
Convent Gardens Church Hill Wednesbury	2.13	9.31	7.61	16.92	1.45
Cemetery Lodge Beebee Road Wednesbury	1.94	8.12	6.78	14.91	1.60

Factories Act, 1937.

The following list of Factories shows the types of trades being carried on in the Borough during the period under review.

Mechanical Factories.						<i>No. on. Register.</i>
Aerated Waters	...	...	...	...	...	3
Aluminium Castings	...	...	...	...	...	4
Axle Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bacon Curing	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	...	11
Bed fitting	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beer Bottling	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bolts and Nuts	...	...	...	...	...	12
Boot Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	7
Brass Castings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Brickworks	...	...	...	...	...	1
Buckle Covering	...	...	...	...	...	1
Car Frame Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Carpentry and Joinery	...	...	...	...	...	11
Carriage Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chain Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical Preparations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffin Makers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cooperage	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cycle Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	3
Die Sinkers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drop Forging	...	...	...	...	...	7
Edge Tool Maker	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electrical Accessories	...	...	...	...	...	3
Electricians	...	...	...	...	...	3
Electricity Depot	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enamelling	...	...	...	...	...	1
Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Firewood Cutters	...	...	...	...	...	1
Galvanisers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Garage Motor Vehicle Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	14
Gas Cookers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hay Merchant	...	...	...	...	...	2
Holloware	...	...	...	...	...	1
Iron Castings	...	...	...	...	...	6
Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	2
Leather Working	...	...	...	...	...	1
Metal Pressings	...	...	...	...	...	1
Metal Stampers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Motor Body Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Oil Storage	...	...	...	...	...	1
Optical Ware	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pattern Makers	...	...	...	...	...	3

Mechanical Factories.*No. on
Register.*

Plastic Products	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plating (Chrome)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pre-cast Housing	...	...	...	...	...	1
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sack Making	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausage Making	...	...	...	...	...	7
Saw-milling	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scale Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sheet Metal Works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Spring Making	...	...	...	...	...	3
Steel Milling	...	...	...	...	...	2
Steel Producing	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stockists (Iron and Steel)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tool Making	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tube Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tube Making	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wagon Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washer Stamping	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Works Depot	...	...	...	...	...	1
Window Maker (Metal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Welding	...	...	...	...	...	1

Non-Mechanical Factories.*No. on
Register.*

Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Boot Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	4
Builders	...	...	...	...	...	20
Carpentry and Joinery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electricians	...	...	...	...	...	1
Glaziers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malster...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	8
Paper Ornaments	...	...	...	...	...	1
Photographers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Radio Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sculptors	...	...	...	...	...	1
Upholsterers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Watch Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	8

The following two tables are those required of the Medical Officer of Health in his annual report to the Ministry of Labour and show the number of inspections and the cases where Defects were Found and Remedied.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

1.—Inspections.

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	214	136	75	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	218	144	75	Nil

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	Referred By H.M. Inspector.
Want of Cleanliness	37	34	—	4
Inadequate Ventilation	7	7	—	2
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	4	4	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	5	3	—	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	11	—	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	6	4	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	4	4	—	—
TOTAL	75	67	—	11

Electrical Stations (Sections 103 (1) Institutions. (Section 104) and site of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

In January, 1953, Mr. Herbert Webster retired at the age of 67 years after completing 35 years with the Department. Also Mr. Jack Worrillo retired at the age of 68 years after 12 years service with the department.

During the last week of last year reviewed in my previous report tipping was changed to a new site at the rear of Bridge Street commensurate with the anticipated line of the planned and partly made Woden Road South. At the side of this proposed road was a small swamp making the ground useless. The tipping carried out until the end of January, 1953, has recovered enough ground so that when completely levelled and dressed finishing with soil and seed it is estimated that two further football pitches can be added to earlier proposals in this behalf.

From the beginning of February, 1953, to the end of the period under review (to 31st March, 1953) tipping commenced at a portion of the Mounts Road allotments near Messrs. Barlow's boundary to fill in two water holes. Whilst it was a small job its object will provide an area for displaced allottees from another point whence it is proposed to draw soil for the completion of allotments.

It is regrettable to have to report that owing to altered trade conditions the demand for paper salvage during this period under review slumped tremendously. In addition the East Coast and Thames district floods affected the paper mills which receive our collections, that for a period of eight weeks we were barred from sending any paper away.

When despatch of Waste Paper was recommenced the Mills asked for co-operation for a short period to restrict our consignment to the small quota of four tons per week.

It was found necessary to discontinue with the team of women collectors and the stocks of waste paper continued to increase. By the end of March something like 40 tons was being stored against an increase in demand which I felt sure was due to follow.

It is interesting to note that the total weight of salvage collected increased from 417 tons to 533 tons. The total income therefrom was £3,320, a reduction of £1,055 on the previous year, signifying the rapid downhill trend in the price of waste paper.

At the end of the period we were continuing with good salvage from works, shops and any householders who notified us they had accrued a quantity and this was ably bailed by four women bailers.

In connection with the countrywide effort to get scrap metal from householders a scrap metal drive was held in the Borough from August 18th to 22nd.

The astounding total of 88 tons 1 cwt. 1 qr. was collected and I again record appreciation to all the men of the Department who worked so enthusiastically to attain such a result. The men went to it with a will after their normal days work and this seemed to fit the spirit of the general public of Wednesbury who handed out the scrap.

The details of tonnage and cost of collection and disposal are shown in the table overleaf.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COST ACCOUNTS.

1952	Year ended 31st March.	1953.	Per ton Collected	Per 1,000 houses.	Per 1,000 population.	Equivalent Rate in £.
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
13,883	Collection and Salvage. Total Expenditure	16,468 14 7	1 9 0	1,732 9 1	475 5 9	2 1.35
4,370		3,308 11 0	5 10	348 1 0	95 9 8	5.09
9,513	NET COST	13,160 3 7	1 3 2	1,384 8 1	379 16 1	1 8.26
1,218	Disposal of Refuse. Total Expenditure	1,365 8 4	2 4	143 12 9	39 8 1	2.10
95		98 12 5	2	10 7 6	2 16 11	.15
1,123	NET COST	1,266 15 11	2 2	133 5 3	36 11 2	1.95
10,636	TOTAL COST OF COLLECTION and DISPOSAL OF REFUSE ...	14,426 19 6	1 5 4	1,517 13 4	416 7 3	1 10.21
(1) Number of tons of refuse collected and salvage collected during the year 1952-53	11,350	(4) Rateable Value at 31st March, 1953 ...	£163,519			
(2) Number of houses at 31st March, 1953 ...	9,506	(5) Product of a penny rate for 1952-53 ...	£649 15s. 6d.			
(3) Population at 31st December, 1952 ...	34,650	(6) Weight of refuse collected per 1,000 population per day	17.948 cwts.			

Statement of Sanitary Inspections and Visits.

<i>Nature.</i>				<i>Number.</i>
Dwelling Houses (H.A. 1936)	...	...	...	87
Dwelling Houses (P.H.A. 1936)	...	...	...	1427
Overcrowding (H.A. 1936)	...	...	...	4
Dirty Conditions	...	...	...	32
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	46
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	84
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	36
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	43
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	217
Food Preparing and Storage Premises	...	...	...	57
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	186
Markets	...	...	...	48
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	431
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	6
Sampling—Milk	...	...	...	4
Sampling—Water	...	...	...	14
Sampling—Ice Cream	...	...	...	10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	18
Factories—Mechanical	...	...	...	150
Factories—Non-Mechanical	...	...	...	8
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	70
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	4
Piggeries	...	...	...	92
House Drainage	...	...	...	395
Smoke Abatement—Observations	...	...	...	26
Smoke Abatement—Visits to Plant	...	...	...	19
Prevention of Damage by Pests	...	...	...	678
Accommodation for Storage of Refuse	...	...	...	124
Collection and Disposal of Refuse	...	...	...	150
Accumulations	...	...	...	33
Interviews	...	...	...	210
Milk Shops	...	...	...	161
Outworkers	...	...	...	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	14
Atmospheric Pollution	92
Stables	6
Pet Shops	23
Food Poisoning	21
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				5033
				<hr/>

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Members of the Council, Chief Officers and their staffs my sincere thanks for their continued confidence help and goodwill at all times.

My thanks are due also to the whole of the Public Health and Depot Staff for their hard work and close and careful attention to all matters.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. J. TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

M.R.S.I.A., M.S.I.A.

C H. Bowcott
and Sons
Wednesbury and
Darlaston
